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SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF THE LAND-LOCKED COUNTRIES

Text of draft resolution submitted by the Chairman
of the Working Group

The following text of a draft resolution is the result of recent informal discussions that have taken place and is submitted to the Working Group by the Chairman.
The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

A.

Recalling the Principles relating to Transit Trade of Land-Locked Countries which were adopted by the first session of UNCTAD (Final Act, Annex A.I.2),

Recalling that, on the basis of these Principles, the United Nations Conference on Transit Trade of Land-Locked Countries adopted on 8 July 1965 the Convention on Transit Trade of Land-Locked States,

Noting that the Convention entered into force on 9 June 1967 but so far has been ratified or acceded to by only two transit States having a sea-coast,

Noting further that the Convention is open for ratification or accession without any time limit,

Considering that, for the promotion of the trade and economic development of the land-locked States, it is essential to provide facilities to enable them to overcome the effects of their land-locked position on their trade,

Recalling the Resolution 1028(XI) of the United Nations General Assembly:

1. Urges all States invited to become parties to the 1965 Convention on Transit Trade of Land-Locked States to investigate the possibilities to ratify it or accede to it and to make it effective at the earliest possible date.

B.

Recognizing that:

- (a) the land-locked position of many developing countries affects the expansion of trade and economic development of these countries and may hamper them in taking advantage of some of the international measures envisaged to support the trade expansion and economic development of all developing countries,
- (b) the special problems involved in the promotion of the trade and economic development of the land-locked developing countries, in particular the high cost of transportation due to distance from sea, the poor state of transport and communications and other factors inhibiting the execution of their trade expansion and economic development programmes, call for special attention and require special solutions,

Convinced that the international community, when embarking upon a comprehensive policy of co-operation for development, should pay due attention to the above-mentioned special problems of the land-locked developing countries,

Noting that, within the framework of some United Nations regional economic commissions and some regional and sub-regional economic groupings of developing countries, studies of certain important aspects of the special problems of the land-locked developing countries of the regions or sub-regions concerned have been initiated with a view to contributing to their solution,

/1. Recognizes that the land-locked developing countries, in view of their special problems mentioned in the preamble of this resolution, deserve the same special treatment as that to be accorded to the least developed among the developing countries;] ^{1/}

/1. Recommends that, in the further examination of possible criteria for the classification of the least-developed countries, appropriate consideration should be given to the relevance of the land-locked factor to the degree of development of the countries concerned in respect of the measures under consideration;] ^{1/}

^{1/} Alternative texts are shown here in view of the fact that no agreement was reached on this paragraph in the informal discussions.

2. Recommends that the Governments of the developed countries in their financial and technical assistance programmes in the field of transport and communications, should accord appropriate attention to the special needs of land-locked developing countries in extending adequate financial and technical assistance to projects designed for the development and improvement of transport and communications infrastructure needed by these countries, in particular of the transport modes and facilities most convenient to them and mutually acceptable to the transit and the land-locked developing countries concerned, including joint projects concluded by common agreement with the transit States concerned for the establishment, expansion and/or improvement of transport and communications facilities serving the transit trade of the land-locked countries;
3. Further recommends that the appropriate international financial organizations be invited to give similar attention among their priorities to the matters mentioned in the preceding paragraph;
4. Calls on transit countries to extend their fullest possible co-operation to the formulation and execution of the projects mentioned in the preceding paragraphs;
5. Recommends that the land-locked developing countries and the transit countries should enter into consultations and negotiations, whether bilaterally or on a regional or sub-regional basis, with a view to examining jointly the special difficulties which the land-locked developing countries face in the promotion of their trade and economic development, and concluding agreements designed to overcome such difficulties in accordance with the nature of each particular case paying special attention to the facilities requested by the land-locked countries for their transit trade;
6. Further recommends that the Governments of the developed countries be invited to bear in mind, in their assistance programmes or through the international organizations concerned, the possibility of extending loans on favourable terms:
 - (a) to the land-locked developing countries for the development of transport and communication facilities designed to help the latter to overcome the special difficulties of their land-locked position;
 - (b) to the developing land-locked and transit countries for the development of transport and communication facilities referred to in paragraph 2 above designed to help the developing countries concerned to overcome the special difficulties of the land-locked position.

7. Recommends that the governments of States members of UNCTAD invite liner conferences and equivalent organizations, directly or through the shipowners members of them, and likewise insurance companies, to bear in mind in forming their respective tariff policies, the special problems of land-locked developing countries.
8. Calls on the developed land-locked countries, through the exchange of information, experience, training and technical know-how, to lend, upon request, directly or through the other appropriate UN bodies, special assistance to the land-locked developing countries in outlining suitable solutions to the special problems of the latter;
9. Invites the regional economic commissions concerned with the developing regions and the regional and sub-regional economic groupings of the developing countries to pay special attention in their work programmes to the special problems in the field of the trade expansion and economic development of the land-locked countries - members of such regional economic commissions and regional or sub-regional economic groupings, and to give special consideration to the need of greater participation of such land-locked developing countries in regional and international trade,
10. Requests:
 - (a) The Secretary-General of UNCTAD, in consultation with the Under Secretary-General of the United Nations in charge of Economic and Social Affairs, to establish a group of experts to carry out a comprehensive examination of, and to report upon, the special problems involved in the promotion of trade and economic development of the land-locked developing countries; special study to be made in this examination of the transport problems, outlining possible ways by which the adverse effects of higher transportation costs on the trade position, production costs and execution of economic development programmes of the land-locked developing countries might be minimized; the background material to be prepared for the examination by the group of experts shall draw fully upon the experience and competence in this field of other appropriate UN bodies, in particular the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the regional economic commissions; the report of this expert group should describe the experience so far gained in the solution of the above mentioned problems and outline further practical measures and procedures for presentation to the Trade and Development Board for consideration and appropriate action,

(b) the States members of UNCTAD, the regional economic commissions, the specialized agencies concerned, the economic groupings of the developing countries and other international organizations dealing with the subject to co-operate with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD by providing to the extent possible, information relevant to the preparation of the studies and reports mentioned in this paragraph,

(c) the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to follow the progress made in giving effect to the recommendations made in this resolution and to report thereon in his annual reviews of international trade and economic development to be prepared in pursuance of the Trade and Development Board's resolution 19(II).